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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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High lights of the week's summary include production plans for this year; the 8-point milk-production program; and plans for farm labor recruitment in 1944.

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KANSAS
January 12, 1944

Production plans for 1944. -During December agricultural and home economics programs were set up for 1944 in all counties. In development of plans, fact was taken into consideration that increases in production over previous years cannot be made entirely through increases in acreage planted. Some adjustments between crops can be made where national program indicates they are desirable. Total numbers of livestock, particularly hogs, beef cattle, and poultry, will need to be reduced somewhat, since feed available with normal yields would not be sufficient to take care of present numbers. Increases in livestock production will have to come wholly from greater efficiency in management. Fundamental thesis of extension program is that every farm should be made to produce its maximum by following good farm-management principles. Where advisable, shifts should be made to feed or oilseed crops, as suggested by National War Board.

Information on program will be carried by all specialists and other field representatives of college, as well as by press and radio. Conference was held in December by Extension employees, AAA representatives, and War Boards. Series of meetings was planned for January to take background of war production program to the field. Meetings will be attended by representatives of Extension Service, who will present technical information side of program, and AAA representatives, who will deal primarily with schooling of county committees and county committee-men, writing of farm plans, and other matters affecting program.

Plans have been well matured for handling farm labor program for 1944. Particular attention has been given to plans for recruiting and training of available State labor not normally employed on farms.

Many specialists have held schools at which subject matter and objectives of respective programs in agricultural production were presented to county agents.

8-point milk production program. -Tri-State meeting was held in Kansas City in December, attended by extension agronomists and dairymen from Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri. Work of past years was reviewed, and new ideas were formulated. Outgrowth of conference was holding of night schools for milk producers.

In preparation for these meetings, circular was issued on Federal 8-Point Milk Production Program. Meetings were reasonably well attended and reached about half of major processing plants in State. Program was planned with industry men so they would assist in getting patrons out to local and county meetings held by extension dairy and agronomy specialists in various counties. One suggestion from this series of meetings is that extension specialists prepare monthly material for plants to use in news letters or circulars to their patrons.

At Dairy Farm Record Association reorganization meetings, major emphasis was placed on how producers can help in war effort by feeding according to known production, thus increasing milk production for war needs. Also brought out was need to continue proving bulls so that improved breeding program can be effective in future years.

Cattle grub control.—Cattle grub control program was carried on through several well-organized demonstrations on dusting, washing, and spraying for grubs and ticks. One demonstration was attended by 300 people in spite of snowstorm. Life history of cattle grub and losses caused were discussed and charts, together with hides, exhibited. At Topeka, demonstration was broadcast through two radio stations. Losses caused by brands were also discussed and improved methods of branding suggested. These demonstrations were followed by numerous others given by agents in almost every county in State.

Poultry.—To further war food production program, field experimental tests were started in cooperation with department of bacteriology, comparing accuracy of stained antigen tube agglutination tests for pullorum disease in turkeys. More accurate testing could be expected to reduce poult mortality and thereby increase meat production. County and community schools were begun for discussion of wartime poultry problems and practices and feed conservation.

4-H Club work.—District conference for 4-H Club leaders and extension agents will be held last 2 weeks of January. Programs emphasize contribution to Food Fights for Freedom campaign and building of strong future citizenship. Report will be made to club leaders on 1943 "Feed a Fighter" campaign. Extension subject-matter specialists will chart courses for stronger project program in 1944.

Assistance was given to counties in preparing plans for special project membership drives to increase quality and quantity of food production projects and to enlarge 4-H Club membership.

VIRGINIA
January 1, 1944

Farm labor.—During December, emergency farm labor office set up tentative plans for surveying needs as early as possible and determining where extra labor would be required. Counties are being classified as follows:

1. Counties where local labor is sufficient and some seasonal labor may be recruited during certain periods.
2. Counties where labor supply will be sufficient for local needs without special effort but where no extra labor will be available at any time for work in other sections.

3. Counties where intensive local recruitment campaign will have to be put on to supply necessary labor for harvest of crops.
4. Counties where, even with intensive local recruitment campaign, labor from outside will be necessary.

Grouping counties on this basis should make it easier to help them meet needs later on.

Year-round labor continues to be requested by farmers but only small amount is being supplied through farm labor program. Virginia has set up tentative procedure in Washington for recruiting returning soldiers interested in farm work, to be placed on farms in counties near Washington. So far, only a few of these soldiers have been obtained.

At end of December, request was received from Florida for 120 men to help harvest citrus fruits. Labor office is recruiting these men in Buchanan Wise, and Dickenson Counties, and expects to find number needed. Most of workers are from small farms and will return in time to prepare land for planting in spring. Workers now employed in essential industries are not accepted.

Committee on work simplification and utilization has been set up. Introduction of techniques of farm work simplification into emergency farm labor program is being considered. Extension agricultural engineer attended 2-week short course on subject at Purdue University. Some work-simplification ideas, if used in training unskilled farm labor for doing certain jobs, might increase their productivity. Two camp authorities are working on manual of suggestions for operating farm labor camps, for use of managers, placement men, and others.

Home food supply.—Reports show Virginia farm homemakers canned more than 35 million quarts of food, dehydrated more than 600 pounds of fruits and vegetables, and stored 3 million bushels of food during 1943.

During December, 11 leader training meetings for garden club leaders had total attendance of 104. If average membership of clubs is 20, these 104 leaders would reach 2,080 people. Training leaders is believed to be far more efficient method than visiting individual clubs.

Poultry.—Poultry specialists worked in 34 counties scoring flocks and demonstrating culling. Each home demonstration club in 11 counties appointed poultry club leaders who spent 1 day at county seat with poultry specialists preparing material to present to clubs during each of first 6 months of year.

Negro homemakers.—Food program still holds spotlight in home demonstration agents' counties. Three counties reported on cheesemaking. In Hanover, four adult clubs cut cheese at December meeting. All cheese sampled was of mild flavor and good texture. Three clubwomen reported making 17 pounds of cheese. Halifax County negro home agent gave quick bread demonstrations in 4 schools, reaching 267 pupils from 182 different families. In Brunswick County, demonstrations in meat canning were given by farm agent in three communities. Amherst County home agent reported three Food Fights for Freedom meetings.

Halifax home demonstration members attending December club meetings witnessed demonstrations and joined in discussions on making Christmas decorations from native shrubbery and other materials. Holly, pine, pine cones, cedar, red berries from woods, and ivy were used in decorations for windows, doors, mantels, and dinner tables.

Negro 4-H Clubs.—Brunswick County negro 4-H Clubs held Achievement Day at Lawrenceville, with 200 members and leaders attending. Each club represented had exhibit of produce and livestock raised by its members, and prizes were distributed.